

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

SPECIAL ORDER NO. 18

April 15, 2009

**SUBJECT:** ROBBERY-HOMICIDE DIVISION, BANK ROBBERY SECTION DEACTIVATED; ROBBERY-HOMICIDE DIVISION, COLD CASE SPECIAL SECTION - ACTIVATED; AND ROBBERY-HOMICIDE DIVISION, RAPE SPECIAL SECTION - RENAMED

**PURPOSE:** This Order deactivates Bank Robbery Section, Robbery Homicide Division (RHD), and transfers their functions and special duties to Robbery Special Section, RHD. This Order activates the Cold Case Special Section, RHD and renames Rape Special Section, RHD.

**PROCEDURE:**

- I. ROBBERY-HOMICIDE DIVISION, BANK ROBBERY SECTION - DEACTIVATED.** Bank Robbery Section is deactivated.
- II. ROBBERY-HOMICIDE DIVISION, COLD CASE SPECIAL SECTION - ACTIVATED.** Cold Case Special Section is activated.
- III. ROBBERY-HOMICIDE DIVISION, RAPE SPECIAL SECTION - RENAMED.** Rape Special Section is renamed Special Assault Section.
- IV. ROBBERY-HOMICIDE DIVISION - ORGANIZATION.** Robbery-Homicide Division is comprised of:
  - \* Robbery Special Section;
  - \* Homicide Special Section;
  - \* Cold Case Special Section; and,
  - \* Special Assault Section.
- V. ROBBERY-HOMICIDE DIVISION, ROBBERY SPECIAL SECTION - ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.** The following is added to the Robbery Special Section's investigative responsibilities on a Citywide basis:
  - \* Robberies of banks, bank employees, bank messengers, credit unions, savings and loan institutions, or armored car facilities; and,
  - \* Extortions, by any means, including explosives, involving an adult or juvenile victim or suspect, and the extortion is directed against a bank, bank employee, bank messenger, federally-insured credit union, savings and loan institution, or armored car facility.

**VI. ROBBERY-HOMICIDE DIVISION, ROBBERY SPECIAL SECTION - SPECIAL DUTIES - ADDITIONAL.** The Robbery Special Section is responsible for the following special duties:

- \* **Special Files** - Maintaining files of the following: Names, aliases, and modus operandi of bank robbers.

**VII. ROBBERY-HOMICIDE DIVISION, COLD CASE SPECIAL SECTION.** Within the Cold Case Special Section falls the Cold Case Homicide Unit, the Cold Case Sexual Assault Unit, and the Cold Case Detective Control Unit.

**VIII. COLD CASE SPECIAL SECTION - FUNCTIONS.** Cold Case Special Section is responsible for investigating or assigning cold Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) hit cases Citywide.

**Note:** A Cold Case Homicide is defined as any unsolved homicide in the City of Los Angeles that was committed more than five years ago, and has no significant leads, and is no longer being actively investigated by Area detectives based on a lack of solvability factors and/or workload.

**Note:** A Cold Case Sexual Assault is defined as any unsolved sexual assault in the City of Los Angeles that was committed more than two years ago, and has no significant leads, and is no longer being actively investigated by Area or bureau detectives based on a lack of solvability factors and/or workload.

**IX. COLD CASE SPECIAL SECTION, HOMICIDE UNIT - SPECIAL DUTIES.** The Cold Case Homicide Unit (CCHU) will assume the investigative responsibility for all cold homicide cases where there is scientific evidence not limited to prints, ballistics, a DNA offender hit and/or a DNA case-to-case hit. The CCHU has identified most of the unsolved cold homicide cases in the City of Los Angeles, dating back to the year 1969, and will reopen and assume investigative responsibility, based on solvability factors, which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- \* Cold homicide cases that originally lacked sufficient evidence for a criminal filing, but could now be proven through the application of DNA processing

techniques;

- \* Cases with latent print evidence that were never processed or can be resubmitted to the Los Angeles Automated Fingerprint Identification System (LAFIS) and/or the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Integrated Automated Fingerprint Information System (IAFIS), which did not exist or was not available when the crime occurred;
- \* Cases with ballistic evidence that were never processed and can now be submitted to CROSSFIRE/National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN);
- \* Cases with modus operandi and/or signature aspects that were sufficiently unique to match with other cases captured in the FBI's Violent Crime Apprehension Program (ViCAP); and,
- \* Cases that were not prosecuted because identified suspects and/or witnesses could not be located or were uncooperative at the time of the initial investigation.

**Note:** If a cold case is still within the initial five-year period from the date of occurrence, RHD shall have the authority to selectively assume the investigative responsibility for certain cases. If the case is assumed by RHD, a Follow-Up Investigation Report, Form 03.14.00, will be completed in accordance with Detective Operations Manual (DOM), Volume I, Section 120.00, and all protocols for the transfer of an investigation will apply.

**X. COLD CASE SPECIAL SECTION, SEXUAL ASSAULT UNIT - SPECIAL DUTIES.** The Cold Case Sexual Assault Unit will assume the investigative responsibility for cold sexual assault cases where there is a DNA offender hit or a case-to-case hit, and the case is more than two years old.

**Note:** If a cold sexual assault case is still within the initial two-year period from the date of occurrence, RHD shall have the authority to selectively assume the investigative responsibility for certain cases. (DOM, Volume I, Section 120.00, will apply).

**XI. COLD CASE SPECIAL SECTION, DETECTIVE CONTROL UNIT - SPECIAL DUTIES.** The Cold Case Detective Control Unit (DCU) will receive and coordinate DNA hit notifications from Scientific Investigation Division (SID) for the Department. The DCU will be responsible for immediately forwarding hit notification information to the concerned investigative division. Each investigative division receiving a hit notification from RHD will be required to conduct an appropriate follow-up investigation and document any findings relative to the hit on a Follow-Up Investigation Report and forward the report to RHD.

If the DNA hit identifies a suspect who is in custody, the assigned investigative entity shall have 60 calendar days from the date of the hit notification to complete a Follow-Up Investigation Report and forward the report to RHD. If the DNA hit identifies a suspect who is not in custody, the investigative entity shall have 30 calendar days to conduct a follow-up investigation and forward the report to RHD.

**Note:** Department of Justice protocol requires the Los Angeles Police Department to obtain a new reference sample from the convicted offender, at which time SID will conduct its own confirmation analysis.

**AMENDMENTS:** This Order amends Department Manual Sections 2/475.10, 2/475.30, 2/475.35, 2/475.40, 2/475.60, 2/475.65, 2/475.70, 2/475.75, 2/475.80, 2/475.85 and adds Section 2/475.71 to the Department Manual.

**AUDIT RESPONSIBILITY:** The Commanding Officer, Detective Bureau, shall monitor compliance with this directive in accordance with Department Manual Section 0/080.30.



WILLIAM J. BRATTON  
Chief of Police

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